

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, Claims 3, 5, 11 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 5, 11 and 13, rewritten in independent form, were previously indicated allowable. Accordingly, Claims 3, 5-8, 11 and 13-15 now pending ought now be formally allowed.

With respect to the claim objections, with the rewriting of Claims 3 and 5 in independent form, it is not believed necessary to include the word "and" before the paragraph beginning with "said sections plates... ." The word "and," however, has been added in Claims 3 and 5 before the final paragraphs.

The Examiner states that the language "joining one another adjacent apices" in Claims 6, 8 and 14 is not idiomatic English. However, applicants submit the language is quite clear and is, indeed, idiomatic. The angled ligaments 44 (Figure 4) join one another at the apices 38. The openings are defined as triangularly-shaped, having bases, apices and angled ligaments. Thus, the angled ligaments 44 join one another adjacent apices 48 of the openings 42. Stated differently, the juncture of the angled ligaments lies adjacent apices of the openings, i.e., the angled ligaments join one another through the adjacent apices. It is therefore believed that the language is quite clear and idiomatically correct.

With respect to Claim 4, rejected based on an anticipation by Ross, U.S. Patent No. 2,210,686, this claim has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original Claim 1 as well as certain amendments to further define over the prior art, including Ross. Claim 4, among other things, defines the base plate as forming part of the pressurized boundary for the housing in combination with a plurality of openings in the one section plate bounded in part by the base plate. Additionally, Claim 4 requires the ribs to extend laterally through the openings for supporting the section plates and connection to the base plate. Ross does not include axial ribs which support the section plates or are located to extend axially through the openings for supporting and connection to the section plates. Instead, the ribs 14 and 19, while extending axially, are located along the inner diameter of the section plate and make up

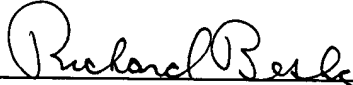
BOARDMAN ET AL.
Serial No. 09/863,019
March 27, 2003

the T-section flanges to support the core. Those ribs have nothing to do with the pressure boundary. They do not extend through the openings nor do they connect to the base plate. Moreover, Ross does not disclose a flat horizontal base plate which forms part of the pressure boundary. By this configuration of section plates, openings and ribs, the benefits of the present invention are realized, namely lower pressure drop, less welding and free drainage of liquid along the surface of the base plate without the need to add additional drain cutouts or holes in the section plates to avoid liquid entrapment.

Having cancelled from the application all claims rejected based on the merits (except Claim 4), having made arguments for patentability of and claim amendments to Claim 4, and believing that the objections to the claim language have now been cured, applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of the allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Richard G. Besha
Reg. No. 22,770

RGB:alm
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100